

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 DPW-01 AID-05 SAM-01 /065 W

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O R 150543Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8392

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS KS

SUBJECT: REALEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: SEOUL 993

1. IN BRIEF STATEMENT ISSUED FEB 15 BY BLUE HOUSE, PRESIDENT PARK ANNOUNCED THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF "SOME COMMUNISTS" THOSE PRISONERS BEING HELD UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES NUMBERS ONE AND FOUR WOULD BE "IMMEDIATELY" RELEASED. PARK SAID RELEASE WAS BEING MADE IN ATMOSPHERE OF UNITY EVIDENCED BY FEB 12 REFERENDUM.

2. BLUE HOUSE SPOKESMAN KIM SONG-CHIN, IN EXPLANATORY STATEMENT, SAID THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRP) CASE AND OTHERS BEING HELD FOR VIOLATION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST AND NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS WOULD NOT BE RELEASED. HOWEVER, KIM SAID, PRISONERS IN THIS CATEGORY WHO WERE STUDENTS AT TIME OF THEIR ARREST WOULD BE RELEASED. EVIDENTLY REFERRING TO TWO JAPANESE STUDENTS KIM SAID THAT IMPRISONED FOREIGNERS WOULD BE RELEASED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PROCEDURES AND TIMING OF RELEASE, KIM
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SAID THAT THOSE PRISONERS WHOSE SENTENCES HAD ALREADY BEEN

CONFIRMED BY THE COURTS WOULD SIMPLY HAVE THE EXECUTION OF THEIR SENTENCES SUSPENDED. THOSE WHOSE CASES WERE STILL BEFORE SUPREME COURT WOULD HAVE THEIR CASES DISPOSED OF BY THE COURT. IN BOTH INSTANCES, KIM SAID THAT THE AUTHORITIES WOULD HANDLE THE CASES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH KIM'S EXPLANATION LESS THAN CLEAR, SEOUL PRESS REPORTING THAT SOME PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED TODAY (FEBRUARY 15).

4. WHILE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ISSUED LIST OF THOSE WHO WILL BE RELEASED, MEASURE SHOULD RESULT IN RELEASE, AMONG OTHERS, OF BISHOP CHI (AS INDICATED REFTTEL) AND KIM TONG-KIL. WE WOULD SURMISE ON BASIS OF KIM SONG-CHING'S STATMENT THAT POET KIM CHI-HA, WHO WAS CONVICTED FOR VIOLATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY LAW, WILL NOT BE RELEASED.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION ON RELEASES WILL BE CABLED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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